(c) and (d) Our Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) has raised the issue with his Pakistan counterpart and lodged strong protest. The Pakistan DGMO has however denied the complicity of their troops in opening fire in all the cases but has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to uphold the ceasefire.

Steps taken to check LoC ceasefire agreement

†1582. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cease fire agreement has been contravened by the recent firings made by the Pakistani army along the Jammu and Kashmir area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the army General has talked to the Pakistani army officers;

(d) if so, the results thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to check the contravention of ceasefire agreement in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There have been four cases of firing across the Line of Control (LoC) once in Novermber, 2004 twice in January, 2005 and once in February, 2005 in Palanwala, Poonch and Rajouri sectors in recent times.

(c) to (e) Director General of Military Operations (DGMOs) has raised the issue with his Pakistan counterpart and lodged strong protest against these incidents. The Pakistan DGMO has denied the complicity of their troops in opening fire in all the cases but has reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to uphold the ceasefire. They have also assured that all possible steps will be taken to prevent any violation of ceasefire.

Transfer of maintenance responsibility of commercial complexes

1583. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to transfer the responsibility of maintenance of the commercial complexes from Defence Estates to service Headquarters;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has received any request from the tourism Ministry for shifting of its shopping complexes for tourism promotions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has decided *vide* letter No. 11026/2001-D(Lands) dated 25th February, 2005 that the management of shopping complexes will be exercised by the Government through the concerned Services Headquarters. Concerned services Headquarters will be fully accountable for the proper maintenance of their accounts and assets as per norms fixed in this regards. Guidelines/rules regarding operation, maintenance and allotment of shops, accounts etc. are to be formulated and issued by the Ministry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Purchase of Lakshya by Israel

1584. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Israel had agreed to buy Pilotless Target Aircraft Lakshya from India under reciprocal procurement of defence related items over a year ago;

(b) whether Isreal had also paid for conducting trials of Lakshya PTA but has since reneged on its commitment opting for US made UAV; and

(c) whether Israel is still keeping its interest alive to buy advanced light helicopter Dhruv made by India with Israeli collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir, Israel had evinced keen interest in 2001, in leasing services of a Pilotless Target Aircraft Lakshya for exploration and evaluation. There was however no firm commitment to buy.

(b) Israel had paid expenses for conducting trials of Lakshya in Israel, for demonstrating its capabilities.